



Eileen M. Donoghue  
City Manager  
Michael McGovern  
Assistant City Manager

May 2, 2018

Mayor William Samaras  
and  
Members of the City Council

REFERENCE: **2/27/18 7.5. C. Kennedy** - Req. City Mgr. instruct Perkins Eastman include an active shooter detection system (similar to Methuen High School system) as part of the plans for the new high school and recommend that the Superintendent of Schools consider similar systems for other schools within the City.

Dear Mayor Samaras and City Councilors:

I am writing in response to the above motion made by Councilor Kennedy regarding safety and security plans to include an active shooter detection system relating to new high school project.


The design of a new high school gets broken down into many different layers through various subcommittees tasked with focusing on areas of expertise. One such subcommittee is the Security Subcommittee. Throughout the process the group met on a number of occasions and most recently met on April 13, 2018. Security discussions will be ongoing during Module 4 Schematic Design and throughout Module 6 Detailed Design. Representatives from the City Manager's Office, School Administration, High School staff, Lowell Police, Lowell Fire, Skanska, Perkins|Eastman, as well as two security consultants attended the meeting.

The fundamental goal is to provide a safe and secure environment that promotes students' individual and educational growth, which is balanced with a safe and secure environment. Security includes an iterative cycle: deter, detect (active shooter detection system), deny, & delay. Security is best achieved through layers which include: crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), physical security, electronic security, and the critical enforcement of security policies and procedures. Perkins|Eastman takes holistic approach to safety and security, taking into consideration all factors including maximizing educational benefits and minimizing threats and bullying.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide a high level overview of the design options being considered for the updated PSR at the downtown site, and discuss general security issues, as well as the specific security issues for each option. The team discussed topics involving a consolidated campus/inclusion of the Freshman Academy (FA), Main Entrance, Culinary Restaurant concerns, Evacuation/Emergency Exits, Number of Egress/Doors, Location in relation to proximity of street, Construction/Phasing Safety and Security, Cafeteria, Retail Spaces, and the new Greenspace. The group discussed current conditions and environments at the high school.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Thank you,

  
Eileen Donoghue  
City Manager